the India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give recommendations regarding its content.

(e) Does not arise.

NFWP in Orissa

*418. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the National Food for Work Programme only 18 out of 30 districts have so far been covered in Orissa;

(b) whether Government are aware that Orissa is the most backward and tribal dominated region with the lowest per capita income in the country;

(c) whether the State Government has made a proposal for covering the remaining 12 districts under the above project; and

(d) if so, the status thereof and if not already done, the time frame within which the above 12 districts would also be covered?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) is being implemented in 18 out of 30 districts of Orissa.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Orissa had requested for the inclusion of all the remaining districts for the implementation of NFFWP. Now, however, NFFWP is not to be extended to any other part of the country because the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 has been notified on 7th September, 2005. NFFWP will be merged with the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to be formulated by the State Government under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005. The 18 NFFWP districts in Orissa will all be covered under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in its first phase. The district Gajapati has also been added as the 19th District in which the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) will be implemented along with the 18 existing NFFWP Districts at the initial stage. According to Section 1(3) of the NREG Act, the Act shall be extended to the entire country within 5 years from the date of the enactment of the Act.